

- B1*
cont.
14. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said creating step further comprises the step of forming a fermentation zone having a top surface area no greater than 0.09 hectare.

Please add the following new claims:

- B2*
18. (New) A method of disposing waste, said method comprising:
forming one or more inner ponds within an outer pond; and
establishing one or more stable microbiological methane fermentation zones within said one or more inner ponds.
19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said forming step includes forming an outer pond comprising aerobic or semi-aerobic waste.
20. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said forming step includes forming an inner pond comprising semi-solid material in a highly reduced state to facilitate conversion to methane.
21. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising deflecting oxygen from said one or more inner ponds.
22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said deflecting step includes deflecting oxygen to prevent intrusion of dissolved oxygen from said outer pond into said one or more inner ponds.
- Sub. C3*
23. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said establishing step includes establishing a stable microbiological methane fermentation zone comprising facultative heterotrophic bacteria and methane bacteria.

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24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said establishing step further comprises converting said facultative heterotrophic bacteria and methane bacteria into a gaseous emission.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said establishing step further comprises converting said facultative heterotrophic bacteria and methane bacteria into a gaseous emission comprising about 70% methane.

Bz cont.
26. (New) The method of claim 18 further comprising:
collecting a gas emitted from said methane fermentation zone in a submerged gas collector;
transporting said gas through a central mast pipe; and
collecting said transported gas in a gas cap.

Sub C1
27. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising using said gas for power generation.

28. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said forming step includes forming an inner pond that has a top surface area no greater than 0.1 hectare.

29. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said establishing step includes creating a fermentation zone within said one or more inner ponds.

30. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said establishing step includes creating a fermentation zone having a top surface area no greater than 0.1 hectare within said one or more inner ponds.